The Properties of the 2MASS Field L Dwarf Population

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The Two Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS) has enabled
the identification of one hundred nearby cool
objects belonging to the new L dwarf spectral class.
I argue that the relation between temperature and
spectral class is now strongly constrained.
Observables such as the fraction of L dwarfs with
lithium, the space density, and the kinematics allow
the ages and masses of the L dwarf population to be
modeled. I discuss the fraction of L dwarfs which are
actually brown dwarfs and the best current value of the
substellar mass function.